

## **Enhancing the Role of Science in Regulatory Development Through Analytic Blueprints**

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently completed a completely revised guidance on Analytic Blueprints. The Analytic Blueprint (ABP) is an internal, deliberative document that the U.S. EPA staff develops within a workgroup, as one part of the Action Development Process (the process of creating a new regulation or significant non-regulatory action). Every Tier 1 or Tier 2 rule (higher priority than Tier 3) requires an ABP, and key offices, including the Office of Research and Development (ORD) and OPEI, formally approve the detailed ABP. The U.S. EPA's workgroup members are being offered training in the development of and role of this important document.

Science is a key component of the ABP. One critical section of the ABP document focuses entirely on scientific issues likely to arise in the rule's development. The science section of the blueprint describes plans for collecting and analyzing data and for conducting scientific analyses and reviews needed to ensure that decisions are based on sound science.

Scientific products are highlighted in the ABP because they may be used to:

- Accurately scope and frame the boundaries of the problem
- Identify feasible and innovative technologies and regulatory options
- Establish standards for human health and ecological protection or quantify costs and benefits of various options (risk analysis, etc.)
- Develop testing and monitoring approaches to assess compliance and measure environmental progress

ORD's review of the ABP early in process of rule development is a useful step towards ensuring the best available science is brought to bear in the development of the U.S. EPA's regulations.